



Health Talents International, Inc.

"A Ministry of Teaching and Healing"

Health Talents E-newsletter

September 2009

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"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' "

John 8:12

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Fall is here...and along with the cooler temperatures comes the gorgeous array of colors that dazzle. It is my favorite time of year! It is the time we typically begin to take stock of all we've accomplished during the year and the ways that God has been evident in our lives and work. We have much to be grateful for here at Health Talents. You, our supporters and contributors, are at the top of that list! Thanks for all you do to aid this ministry.

State of National Calamity

Famine and Hunger in Guatemala

On Sept 9, 2009,

the Guatemalan government declared a "State of National Calamity" because of the current acute food crisis. Twenty-one provinces in the eastern part of the country have been experiencing a prolonged drought that has caused significant crop losses. In some provinces, the government predicts the crop loss will be 60-80%.



Guatemala is woefully at risk in this because it already has the fourth highest rate of *chronic* malnutrition in the world and the highest in Latin America. The government estimates 410,000 families are affected. In the past year 1,200 children from the drought-stricken area have been hospitalized for malnutrition.

Health Talents is responding to this crisis. HTI is providing matching funds to the Zone 11 and Zone 18 Churches of Christ for any funds they collect for this crisis. These monies will be used to purchase food for distribution in the stricken areas. If you would like to take part in this compassionate response to hunger, send your contribution labeled "**Guatemala Hunger**" and mail it to Health Talents, PO Box 8303, Searcy, AR 72145. You may also call 205-266-0708 to donate by credit card.

50 Years & Going Strong!

Sunday morning, August 16, found over 2000 Church of Christ members from all over Guatemala, worshipping together and celebrating 50 years since its establishment there.

Dr. Dan Coker and Jerry Hill, two of the missionaries who were instrumental in evangelizing Guatemala,



attended as well. It was a joyful time of worship and homecoming and recognition of how the churches have multiplied in only fifty years. As a testament to the power of the Word and the work of the Spirit in this country, those in attendance were reminded that after the missionaries left due to the violence during the Civil War, the Church continued to grow and spread despite the turmoil in the country and the lack of U.S. support. We thank God for his faithfulness and for providing people like Jerry Hill and Dan Coker for loving the Lord and eagerly sharing the Good News like they did...and for those thousands since who've kept the flame burning ever since!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Dr. Lisa and Nurse Sheri



Clinic Patient Juana and two of her daughters are pictured above. Juana was baptized a few weeks ago and her husband was baptized on September 21st. We rejoice with them!

Sheri, Juan and Lisa went to the Mayan village of Chutzurob for clinic on Tuesday, September 22. Dr. Lisa had gotten a call at 6 a.m. from one of the brothers from the church hosting the clinic wanting to confirm that they were indeed coming. At 6:30 another brother called to say that 30 people were already there! They ended up seeing 38 patients, but with the help of 7 volunteers from the church, it all ran smoothly. They usually cap the

number of patients at 30-35 so as to have time to counsel/pray with each patient. With the help of these brothers and sisters, however, they were able to schedule more patients easily. They divided into two consult stations, one prayer station, and taught one of the ladies to do vital signs. What a blessing to have such interest in the ministry by local church members! Surprisingly, more than half of the patients were new to the clinic. The volunteers said that the word is getting out more, and people are pleased with the care.

They saw several interesting medical cases (anemia, an infected foot, postpartum endometritis, a couple with UTIs (possibly STD's??) that day. They also counseled and encouraged many to begin deepening their prayer life, reading the Word and relying on God during struggles.

(Taken from Dr. Lisa Dunham and Sheri Kretschmar blogs.)

www.kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com

www.sheriinguate.blogspot.com

Nurse Intern onsite!

Katie Hitzing, a registered nurse from Nashville, is serving as a medical missions intern right now in Guatemala. Her interest in medical evangelism was fueled by her experience as a MET student in 2006 and a subsequent surgical clinic trip. Pray with us that she has a fruitful and safe time with the HTI team.

JUST A REMINDER:

Please pray fervently for the ongoing political crisis in Honduras. Guatemala has had more than its share of upheavals, so we know the pain of living thru those difficult and often turbulent times.

2010 HTI Clinic Trip Schedule

If you are interested in being a part of what can be a life-changing experience, we invite you to join us on any of the following trips during 2010:

January 16-23	General/Gyn Surgery	July 17-24	Eye Surgery
Jan 28-Feb 2	Nicaragua Mobile Med/Dental	August 7-14	General/ENT Surgery
Feb 6-13	Gyn/Plastic Surgery	Sept 4-11	General/Gyn Surgery
March 13-20	Eye/Orthopedic Surgery	October 2-9	General/Gyn
Surgery			
April 17-24	General/Gyn Surgery	Nov 3-8	Guatemala Mobile Med/Dental
July 7-12	Guatemala Mobile Med/Dental	Nov 13-20	Eye Surgery

To sign up, go to our website and complete the Trip Form (listed on Main Menu): www.healthtalents.org
Questions? Contact Julie Wheetley at juliecarmen@gmail.com